

The project «EUbyLakes» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"

Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"

7 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1: Virtual Artistic Residency on all topics

Participation: The event involved 72 citizens, including 60 participants from 12 EU countries: 1 participant from Croatia, 2 from Finland, 6 from France, 3 from Germany, 8 from Greece, 5 from Italy, 1 from Poland, 19 from Portugal, 5 from Romania, 1 from Slovakia, 1 from Slovenia, 8 from Spain, and 12 participants from 6 non-EU countries: 2 from Albania, 1 from Azerbaijan, 1 from Brazil, 2 from Macedonia, 2 from Syria, and 4 from Ukraine.

Location / Dates: The event took place **online**, from 09/05/2020 to 06/06/2020

Short description: The Virtual Artistic Residence (VAR) was designed to be an online academy, a forward-looking space for discussion and creativity within informal, horizontal and participant-led conversations. It addressed the EUbyLakes thematic with lectures from experts, open debates and working sessions, with a final contest awarding artists for their artworks related to the project thematic, it took place during one month in 2020 – from 9th May to 6th June 2020. Each session was a kick-off part of the respective in-person events in 2022.

Event 2: Culture KlrC Festival on all topics

Participation: The event involved 90 citizens, including 80 participants from 18 EU countries: 1 participant from Austria, 5 from Belgium, 1 from Bulgaria, 2 from Czech Republic, 1 from Estonia, 6 from Finland, 4 from France, 6 from Greece, 1 from Hungary, 6 from Italy, 3 from Lithuania, 2 from The Netherlands, 1 from Poland, 32 from Portugal, 1 from Romania, 1 from Slovakia, 1 from Slovenia, 6 from Spain and 10 participants from 7 non-EU countries: 1 from Belarus, 2 from Brazil, 2 from Serbia, 2 from Ukraine, 1 from Kosovo, 1 from Pakistan, 1 from Russia.

Location / Dates: The event took place **online**, from 23/02/2021 to 25/02/2021

Short description: The Culture KlrC Fest proceeded with the work started in the Virtual Artistic Residency. Artists from all over Europe were called to participate in the debate and sharing artworks to be presented during the online event and published on the festival's gallery. The three-days intensive event included panel with high-level speakers, debates, on-line live concert, artists performance, interviews with artists and cultural activist. The Culture KlrC Fest was hosted on Zoom and live streamed on YouTube.

Event 3: Climate Neutrality Open-Air University

Participation: The event involved 41 citizens including participants from 6 countries: 26 participants from Italy, 7 from Finland, 3 from Greece, 2 from Spain, 2 from Ireland, 1 from Bulgaria.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Iseo, Italy from 23/05/2022 to 27/05/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to gather citizens around Lake Iseo to discuss the transition to Climate neutrality that is the greatest challenge and opportunity for Europe to create a future-ready economy and societal well-being. The following questions were discussed: How can rural areas seize the opportunities that technological advances bring, providing prosperity for their citizens? How to ensure that everyone is included?

Event 4: Cohesion Open-Air University

Participation: The event involved 29 citizens including participants from at least 5 countries: 1 participant from Portugal, 21 from Spain, 2 from Finland, 3 from Italy and 2 from Greece.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Manzanares el Real, Spain from 07/07/2022 to 10/07/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to implement different types of activities involving not just official participants of the project, but also different sectors of the municipality's population and even the European Parliament to discuss the topic of Cohesion.

Event 5: Biodiversity Open-Air University

Participation: The event involved 36 citizens including participants from at least 5 countries: 29 participants from Greece, 2 from Italy, 2 from Finland, 2 from Spain, 1 from Portugal.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Kerkini, Greece from 22/08/2022 to 26/08/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss the challenges for the preservation of biodiversity at the European, national and local level and in particular the need to protect the special natural environment of Lake Kerkini National Park in innovative ways, maintaining its basic values and functions (flood protection, biodiversity, ecotourism, irrigation, agriculture, animal husbandry, etc.) with the aim of sustainable development of the area for both humans and Nature.

Event 6: Digital Innovation Open-Air University

Participation: The event involved 82 citizens including 76 participants from 7 EU countries: 39 participants from Finland, 1 from Greece, 1 from Spain, 2 from Italy, 1 from The Netherlands, 1 from Estonia, 31 from Latvia, and 6 participants from 3 non-EU countries: 1 participant from United Kingdom, 2 from Russia, 3 from Japan.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Imatra, Finland, from 06/09/2022 to 09/09/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to involve various local stakeholders in discussion of man's relation to nature and how to keep it living by using digital innovations to attract people to experience and enjoy the nature. There were several meetings with local entrepreneurs and lively discussions about the need to network and cooperate in future. Cruise on lake Saimaa and workshop concerning sustainable tourism in Finland and especially in South-Karelia was appreciated. Nature activities organized by company Discover Saimaa is a concept, that is possible to copy to other partner countries. 4Discussions with students gave a good overview about young people's opinions about EU.

Event 7: Democracy and Equality Open-Air University

Participation: The event involved 202 citizens including 173 participants from 10 EU countries: 157 participants from Portugal, 3 from Finland, 1 from Greece, 1 from Spain, 4 from Italy, 1 from Germany, 2 from Poland, 2 from Croatia, 1 from France, 1 from Slovenia, and 29 participants from 3 non-EU countries: 26 participants from Ukraine, 2 from United Kingdom, 1 from Russia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Reguengos de Monsaraz, Portugal from 24/10/2022 to 28/10/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to organise a Five-day retreat near the European largest reserve Lake – Alqueva in Portugal. The Portuguese Open Air University of EUbyLakes took place in different locations in the region of Alentejo, enhancing opportunities to debate one of the great European themes, democracy and equality, in a context of freedom, diversity and unity. The event gathered in total more than 170 participants and was mentioned around 10 times in local media.